



**HISTORY 1302.05E and HISTORY 1302.06E  
THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865  
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2014**



**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Kowalsky  
**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Sciences 105  
**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:00, 2:30-5:00, or by appointment  
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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Materials:**

The following required books are available at the bookstore:

- Foner, *Give Me Liberty*, Vol. II, 3<sup>rd</sup> Seagull Edition (W. W. Norton, 2011) ISBN 978-0393911916, \$46.25. You may purchase an ebook if you like. This is the link to the appropriate version: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail.aspx?ID=22147>

Additional required materials will be distributed in class by the professor or made available to students through eCollege.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural events occurring in the United States since 1865. Students are expected to expand their critical thinking and analytical skills while improving their reading comprehension and writing capabilities.

Every reading, discussion, test, and writing assignment for this course will seek to answer several basic questions. What major historical events have impacted America's development as a nation during the last 150 years? How have issues of race, imperialism, and national identity influenced the patterns of America's history and growth? What has been the minority experience in American history? How does our understanding of past events in US history impact our interpretations of current world affairs, and also, what national events or figures have contributed most significantly to the development of the United States' national self-image? This course will explore the chronology of political, social, and economic events in the United States of America since 1865 in an attempt to isolate and analyze the factors that contributed most prominently to America's development as a nation.

This course is a hybrid course, meaning that while the majority of instruction is conducted in the classroom, students will be asked to complete some work (no more than 30% of course requirements) online through eCollege. Students will frequently be granted flex time on Fridays, and so will not meet on every Friday during the semester.

Prerequisite and/or Corequisite: ENG 1301 or 1302

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials and to link cultural representations to the underlying historical realities that helped shape them. By the end of the semester:

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

Student learning outcomes 1-3 will be assessed through the essay assignments for the course. Student learning outcome 4 will be assessed by the Student Responsibility Sheet (SRS) (to be printed from eCollege, completed by the student, and returned to the professor by the deadline. Failure to complete the SRS may result in automatic failure for the course).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

#### *Attendance and Participation*

Attendance is required. Excessive absences will impact your final grade significantly. Students may miss three classes for whatever reason without penalty. After that, absences will affect the attendance grade. No other excuses. You are responsible for all material covered in our class meetings, regardless of your physical presence in the room. Students are expected to come prepared to engage with and discuss the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material with you to class. I expect all students to participate in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own. In addition, you will be required to participate periodically in online discussions on eCollege, as indicated in the Course Outline below. Guidelines for that participation can be found on the eCollege site (the two lowest eCollege discussions will be dropped from your grade). Your participation grade will be based on your

engagement in our class discussions, both in the classroom and on eCollege, and be guided by the following rubric:

- A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
- B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D = Often unprepared, several absences
- F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

### *Written Assignments*

Students will write two short essays, 3-5 pages each, out of a choice of three possible topics. Students may choose the two topics they prefer. Each paper is worth 10 percent of the final grade. Details of the assignments are available on the eCollege site and the due dates are listed in the Course Schedule below. Students will be allowed to rewrite one of their two papers to improve their grade. Rewrite deadlines will be announced in class. Students found guilty of plagiarism will not be permitted to rewrite their papers.

### *Quizzes*

Quizzes will be given regularly on eCollege. Additional quizzes may be given periodically throughout the semester, either in class or on eCollege. Quizzes given on eCollege are open book. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped from the final grade. ECollege quizzes must be taken during the time frame set out in the syllabus; no exceptions. ECollege quizzes may not be made up.

### *Exams*

Students will take four exams for this course, three during the semester and one final, as indicated in the Course Schedule. Each exam will cover assigned readings, lecture material, and class discussions. The final will be cumulative. You must read the assignments and attend class in order to pass the exams. Exams will consist of short essay questions. Students will need to bring blue books or stapled sheets of notebook paper with them to class on the exam dates. Exams are closed book. No notes of any sort may be used during exams. The first two exams will be worth 10 percent of the final grade each; the third will be worth 15 percent. The final will be worth 20 percent.

### **Grading**

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Essays	20%
Exams (first 3)	35%
Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	10%
Attendance/Participation	5% (in class)
Online Discussion	10% (eCollege Discussions)

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

### *Word Processing:*

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

### *eCollege:*

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or [helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu). To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.

### *Turnitin:*

Students must submit all written work to Turnitin. Work is submitted through the dropbox eCollege. All student work must be turned in to the dropbox on eCollege and will automatically be submitted to Turnitin. Do not put names or other personal information on eCollege submissions. Please let me know if you have any problems.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### **Interaction with Instructor:**

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### ***Classroom Behavior***

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other

forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

### ***Late Papers***

All written assignments are due to the appropriate eCollege dropbox on the due date listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and will be assessed a late penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all assignments (excluding quizzes) must be completed. Any missing assignments (excluding quizzes and online discussions) at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

### ***Academic Honesty***

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

### ***Writing Center***

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

### ***Students with Disabilities***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

Week 1

January 13: Introduction

January 15: Reconstruction (1)

Read: Foner, Chapter 15, 546-584

January 17: no Classroom meeting-Discussion on eCollege (Discussion opens after class on Wednesday and continues through the end of the day on Saturday. All comments and responses should be posted by the end of the day on Saturday to receive credit.)

Week 2

January 20: no class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 22: Westward Expansion (2)

Read: Foner, Chapter 16, 585-628; Turner (eCollege)

January 24: Film *Geronimo* in class and quiz on eCollege (Quiz should be completed by the end of the day on Saturday to receive credit.)

Week 3

January 27: Indian Wars (3)

January 29: Peopling the US (4)

January 31: Film in class (Ellis Island v2) and quiz on eCollege (Quiz should be completed by the end of the day on Saturday to receive credit.)

Week 4

February 3: Gilded Age Politics

February 5: Imperialism and the Spanish-American War (5)

Read: Foner, Chapter 17, 629-671

February 7: **Exam 1 in class.** Discussion and Quiz on eCollege (Discussion opens after class on Wednesday and closes at the end of the day on Saturday. eCollege quiz should be completed by the end of day on Saturday.)

Week 5

February 10: Progressivism (6)

Read: Foner, Chapter 18, 672-713

February 12: Progressive Reforms (7)

February 14: No classroom meeting: Watch film (Triangle Fire) on eCollege and complete quiz by the end of day on Saturday.

Week 6

February 17: The Struggle for Women's Rights

**Essay Project on Triangle Fire due**

February 19: Film in class: Iron Jawed Angels

February 21: Film in class: Iron Jawed Angels/Discussion on eCollege (Discussion opens after class on Wednesday and continues through the end of the day on Saturday. All comments and responses should be posted by the end of the day on Saturday to receive credit.)

Week 7

February 24: US Engages the World: World War I (8)

Read: Foner, Chapter 19, 714-756

February 26: Winning the Peace (9)

February 28: **Exam 2 in class**

Week 8

March 3: Poverty and Prosperity: The 1920s (10)

Read: Foner, Chapter 20, 757-793

March 5: The Great Depression (11)

Readings on eCollege

March 7: Discussion on eCollege (Discussion opens after class on Wednesday and continues through the end of the day on Saturday. All comments and responses should be posted by the end of the day on Saturday to receive credit.)

March 10-14: Spring Break, no class

Week 9

March 17: The New Deal (12)

Read: Foner, Chapter 21, 794-834; Keller reading on eCollege

**Essay project on Great Depression Due**

March 19: The New Deal again (13)

March 21: Film in class (Civilian Conservation Corps) and quiz on eCollege (Quiz should be completed by the end of the day on Saturday to receive credit.)

Week 10

March 24: World War II (14)

Read: Foner, Chapter 22, 835-877

March 26: Wartime Infringements and Expectations (15)

Readings on eCollege

March 28: Film in class: Night and Fog. Discussion on eCollege opens after class on Wednesday and continues through the end of the day Saturday.

Week 11

March 31: The Cold War/The Atom Bomb (16)

Read: Foner, Chapter 23, 879-913

April 2: The Cold War/Duck and Cover (17)

April 4: Discussion on eCollege (Discussion opens after class on Wednesday and continues through the end of the day on Saturday.)

Week 12

April 7: The Cold War/Korea (18)

Read: Foner, Chapter 24, 914-942

April 9: The Cold War(19)

Read: Foner, Chapter 24, 942-955

April 11: **Exam 3 in class**

Week 13

April 14: Civil Rights (20)

Read: Foner, Chapter 25, 956-977

April 16: Civil Rights (21)

April 18: Film in class/Quiz on eCollege (Complete eCollege quiz by the end of the day on Saturday.)

Week 14

April 21: Civil Rights

**Essay Project on Civil Rights due**

April 23: Vietnam (22)

Read: Foner, Chapter 25, 977-1002

April 25: Film in class. Discussion on eCollege (Discussion opens after class on Wednesday and continues through the end of the day on Saturday.)

Week 15

April 28: Vietnam/Nixon (23)

Read: Foner, Chapter 26, 1003-1032

April 30: Reagan (24)

Read: Foner, 1033-1042

May 2: Final Review. Quiz on eCollege (Complete eCollege quiz by the end of the day on Saturday.)

**Final Exam: TBA**